

March 13, 2023

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

I am Tamara Burkovskaia, Slavic/Eastern European community activist and Chair of the Translation Advisory Council to the Secretary of State.

Through my experience, I know that the access to election materials is very important for low English proficiency (LES) voters. HB 3021 implementation has already created a solid foundation for better and broader involvement of minority language communities into the voting process. However, as the demographic and ethnic landscape of the state is evolving, there is need to continuously evaluate the language patterns of the state and counties. Providing translation of the state and voter pamphlets to different language groups will contribute to more active participation of non-English language communities in elections and will help voters make informed decisions during voting. Besides, it will also serve as a clear demonstration that the state respects and values diversity of our communities and supports them as they establish themselves in the United States and Oregon.

I fully support SB 169 as it will further improve the access of LES communities to election materials and voting and hope for your support to this bill.

Respectfully,

*Tamara Burkovskaia*

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